

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK

PURPOSE

The Health Alert Network (HAN) is a nationwide, integrated information and communications system serving as a platform for distribution of health alerts, dissemination of prevention guidelines and other information, distance learning, national disease surveillance, and electronic laboratory reporting, and for CDC's bioterrorism and other initiatives to strengthen state and local preparedness.

When complete, the Health Alert Network will ensure:

- High-speed, secure Internet connections for local health officials, providing access to CDC's prevention recommendations, practice guidelines, and disease data; capacity for rapid and secure communications with first responder agencies and other health officials; and capacity to securely transmit surveillance, laboratory, and other sensitive data
- On-line, Internet- and satellite-based distance learning systems
- Early warning broadcast alert systems
- That public health agencies achieve high levels of organizational capacity.

PREPAREDNESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

CDC is partnering with local and state health agencies and national public health organizations to:

- Connect local health agencies to the Internet by funding initial purchase and installation of electronic computing and communications equipment, including equipment for satellite- and Internet-based training
- Develop and deliver training in the use of information technology in order to prepare public health workers to respond to bioterrorist threats
- Develop electronic tools for preparedness/response to bioterrorism and other disease threats, and rapid dissemination of health warnings
- Deploy authoritative preparedness, diagnosis and treatment guidelines
- Develop science-based, local health department performance standards related to domestic terrorism and other essential health services.

PROGRESS REPORT

- CDC provided HAN funding and technical assistance to 37 state health agencies, three metropolitan health departments, and three Centers for Public Health Preparedness.
- Provided funding and technical assistance to the Center for Research and Education on Bioterrorism and Emerging Infections, St. Louis University School of Public Health to conduct research and provide training to the medical community and public health professionals

- Held the 2000 Public Health Informatics-Distance Learning Conference attended by 500 public health professionals. More than 100 practitioners were trained in the principles of public health informatics.

For additional information please call 770.488.2425 or visit www.phppo.cdc.gov/han